

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraphs [0001], [0012], [0016], and [0021] as follows:

[0001] This application claims priority of [[the]] German patent application 102 49 526.2 which is incorporated by reference herein.

[0012] According to the present invention, this is achieved in a particular embodiment by the fact that the electrical circuit for electrically opening the shutter and holding it open is closed only by a filter insert present in the beam path, an additional switching device connected in series with this safety device permitting arbitrary closing of the shutter.

[0016] Above and beyond its application in fluorescence microscopes and in particular stereomicroscopes, this functional principle can be used wherever a danger to an observer's eye may exist as a result of the absence of components in the optical beam path.

[0021] FIG. 1 schematically depicts the construction of an illumination device 1, illustrating how an illumination beam path 2b with its optical axis 2a, which proceeds from a light source 22, would be closed in shutter position 6a that is depicted, but open in shutter position 6b that is drawn with dashed lines. In the open position, the illumination beam path with its optical axis 2a is guided through an aperture 3 and deflected by a deflection prism 4 into an excitation filter 13 (not depicted here) of a filter insert 12 (FIG. 2). A motor with pinion 9 engages into a drive gear 10 on shutter 6 and moves it between stop points 8b and 8c. Shutter 6 is moved in spring-reinforced fashion by means of spring 7, which is attached to spring suspension 8a. The spring pulls shutter 6 into closed position 6a with a force F.